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CALVIN W. PRICE, Editor.

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The Huntersville Road. I have decided to mark this section so that it will fall into its proper place if I ever have a literary executor. I was not on the lonely stretches of the road last week except on the last day of the week. Some days ago I got a relayed message over the long distance telephone inviting me to come to Charleston and speak at some sort of a revolution. It referred to the State meeting of the Sons of the Revolution to be held in that city on Washington's birthday, the national holiday. It is a far cry from the Huntersville road to the capital city and instead of getting inspiration from the wilderness, I had to depend upon the babel of the city. It was too great an honor to be refused, and so I decided to make the attempt, though I have come to the conclusion that after dinner speaking is one of the cruel and unusual punishments that is denounced by the constitution. Post prandial they called it on the programme. I had been up against these assemblies before and I prepared two speeches. One is a learned historical sermon on the colony of West Virginia which afterwards came into the Union as West Virginia, and the other composed of sound warty chestnuts. The historical treatise went by the board, but they eat up the chestnuts. The history piece will be printed and I am confirmed in my previous opinion that the less wind jamming that is done the better. As the visitor said to the habbion at the 230: "Bogorra, bogorra, you have got sense enough to keep your mouth shut!" There is the spirit of independence that is found in the hills and hollows, and there is the spirit of independence that is glorified by proud societies in the market places. "The spirit of independence let me share, Lord of the lion heart and eagle eye, Thy steps I follow with my bosom bare. Nor heed the storms that howl across the sky."

The Sons of the Revolution is a society organized by states the qualification being that the member must be a lineal descendant of a soldier of the Revolutionary War, or one who has in some way been liable to a charge of treason against the British government of Revolution times. That word treason does not sound apt and proper to me. "Treason never prospers, what's the reason? Why, if it prosper, 'tis not treason." So it does not qualify under that head. The number of troops in the Revolution is not very well settled. The highest number claimed is 395,858, of which 231,462 served under the title of Continental troops. The greatest strength of the continental army was in 1778, when it totaled about 35,000 men. But every county was organized for effective resistance and every man was more or less a defender of his home and country.

As I pointed out last week, the lineal descendants of a soldier like John Bradshaw, whose body is under a large wild cherry tree, out number the enrollment of the three societies in West Virginia based on descent from soldiers of the Revolution. It is not logical that a few of the descendants should be exalted by appearing on the rolls of these societies when the workers of the world do not have their names there. I do not know any remedy for it, for the fees and dues asked are nominal. I pay three dollars a year for the privilege of having my name on the list of the descendants of backwoodsmen who were the wammus. I am very glad of the chance. As for the others who belong to the big survey, all that we can do is to write some history that will identify them in case they or their children should ever want to join up. I have known many a man who was interested in the pedigree of fine stock, that does not care for his own pedigree.

It is a rather difficult task to construct a family tree, and many men intend to look up their line of descent who put it off until it is too late. I have filled up a good many. It is something like that long questionnaire that we used to fill up for the soldier of the World War. My record in completing that searching and difficult inquiry was nine minutes, and that after much practice and much experience. I was looking up a fighting Irish ancestor for a prominent man in Charleston the other day to qualify him for the Sons of the Revolution. We found a very good record but some things he had not known before. It seems that George Rogers Clarke marched his Virginians out across the flooded plains to take Gen. Hamilton at Vincennes, that this ancestor on the 24th day of February, 1779, surrendered as a soldier under Hamilton, and that he enlisted under George Rogers Clarke and served continually for three long years as a soldier of the Revolution, and secured a land grant, and settled down and founded a family in America.

It is a queer state of affairs. It took much time to mellow the animosities of the Revolution. Washington, whose name we revere, died without knowing that he was to be come universally beloved and respected. The same thing happened to Lincoln at a later date. George Rogers Clarke the hero of the west was despised and rejected after the war. There is a reason for this for no man foresaw the effect of American liberty and independence. It enlightened the world and it brought about the amalgamation of the people of the world to form a nation inconceivably great and fine. Now I am not concerned so much about sons and daughters of the Rev. olden who have their pedigrees established in the records of the societies, but I am concerned for that infinitely greater number who are not linked up with the lists when they have a right to be. It is the province of history to preserve these facts for the

unresponding multitude, and in West Virginia some good work has been done along this line. But it has not been greatly fostered and encouraged.

Dr. Roy B. Cook, of Charleston, the historian, author of a number of books, is the authority on Washington and Stonewall Jackson. He specializes on these two notable men, but he has a grasp on all Virginian history. He sort of winces at the doctor to his name, thinking that he might be accused of claiming it through his scholarly attainments. He is like Keats, a druggist, pharmacist, apothecary, or chemist, and I do not know any class of persons who have a better right to be called doctor than those who compound the ingredients to relieve those who are suffering. These wee, little wilmington professors who have been diligently memorizing text books are not as noble in the sight of dying humanity as the man who alleviates and restores. It was Washington's birthday that the meeting was held and Dr. Cook was able to prescribe for and drench the holiday crowd with some cold facts about Washington. Washington had much to do with West Virginia. Probably more than any other man at the critical time in the history of Virginia, when it was uncertain whether the Virginians would ever cross the mountains. Washington was able by his standing, his knowledge of the country, and his business ability to get a foot hold on the Western Waters.

It is uncertain how much if any of his time Washington spent on the Huntersville road. It is established that he came to Warm Springs after he was famous and partook of the waters along with hundreds of other summer boarders. So many claimed a share in Washington, and there are so many rooms and beds in which he slept, that historians are becoming tired of having pistols placed at their heads and being required to endorse all these things. So they are inclined to fall back on Washington's diary and written documents for facts. Thus there has been doubt cast on the tradition that Washington cut down a cherry tree and owned up to it, when caught in the act. It is not in any known diary kept by Washington, and therefore it is to be received with caution. But Washington, being human, the court will take judicial notice and knowledge of the fact that men leave out of diaries more than they put into them.

But the diary brings Washington to the Warm Springs and Huntersville turnpike, within 24 miles of Huntersville, and it is close enough for all practical purposes. But Washington was the boy from east Virginia who was fond of going to the mountains and visiting the Lewis family. The surveying that he did was under Thomas Lewis, and Andrew Lewis, the Revolutionary general, was Washington's guide, counsel or friend. Andrew Lewis was the surveyor who was laying plans for lands on the Western Waters. It is all but certain that Washington as a boy got his hunger for this forbidden land from Andrew Lewis. That the place where this Moses looked upon the land of Canaan was no other than the heights around the Narrows on the Huntersville road. It was this introduction to these mountains and the work that Washington did as a boy in land surveying for Fairfax, that caused him to be chosen by Dinwiddie to make a trip through the woods with Gist, to find out what the French were up to on the headwaters of the Ohio.

Washington had little schooling. He left school at the age of fifteen years. When he was sixteen years old he commenced to survey for Fairfax on lands drained by the Potomac river and spent three years in this work. Thomas Lewis was the regular Fairfax surveyor. It was these three years that Washington spent in the mountains that he had his headquarters at the Lewis homes near Staunton, and what the Lewis knew about the land on the western waters Washington must have known. The very year that Washington quit the profession of a surveyor, 1751, when he was nineteen years old, the Lewis's made their survey on Greenbrier river, so while it is not contended that Washington was present at that survey, it is apparent that it was made by his associates.

Washington was an early bloomer. At nineteen years of age in the year 1751, he was appointed adjutant general of the Virginia troops with the rank of major.

When Washington commenced his surveying for hire he was sixteen and then he began to keep that famous journal of his daily experience which he kept through all the rest of his life, and which has proved such a stumbling block to historians. As we said before a wise man does not set down in writing everything that happens to him, and Washington was certainly a wise man.

It was owing to his woods experience that he was sent to the Ohio, river, and later to the Ohio on three campaigns against the French at Pittsburgh. His desire for lands on the west side of the Allegheny caused him to take a great interest in the opening up of these western lands before the Revolution. In 1773, he advertised in a Baltimore paper that he owned twenty thousand acres on the Ohio

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and the Kanawha which he would lease rent free for a number of years. If the tenant would in two years clear three acres out of every fifty, and by the end of the free term, have five acres in every hundred in grass or meadow, with at least fifty fruit trees on every farm. This proposition did not meet with any success. No one took a leasehold. The reason was that the settlers were coming in by the thousand and each man picking out a home and taking possession of it. This landward movement brought on the Dunmore war with the Indians, which ripened into the war for independence.

There is little doubt that the land hunger of the Virginians had far more to do with the noble discontent that secured the independence than the tea tax or the stamp tax, that is so painfully explained by the New England historians.

In all Washington secured about thirty thousand acres in West Virginia. In 1773, he had a plan to import and settle Irish Catholics on the Kanawha lands, but the war breaking out prevented this.

It has always been a tradition in this part of the country that Washington spent his boyhood largely in the mountains of this part of the Virginia that he was well known where ever the Lewis lands extended, and that was from the Greenbrier valley to Staunton. It was in 1770 that Washington made the trip down the Ohio river and marked some trees to show the land proposed to be taken. This was after he had secured the ruling granting Indian fighters rights to land for military services.

Warm Springs is the closest that I can get Dr. Cook to admit that Washington was on our Huntersville road, but that is just over the hill while I honestly believe that the Washington boy often passed through the Narrows with Gen. Andrew Lewis. I am not in a position to prove it. Some time I will search the record. I have been trying to get a portion of Washington's activities for the Greenbrier valley but Dr. Cook is the man to be reckoned with when it comes to George Washington of West Virginia. But watch me edge him four miles nearer to Huntersville, to wit, as far as Jackson River. Washington was a great fort builder. When the Indians got so dangerous after Brad-dock's defeat in 1755, Washington showed Dinwiddie, governor, that the way to cope with the red terror was to build a line of forts on the frontier. The long parallel mountains ran North 39 degrees east and this movement as to forts resulted in a line of eighty-one forts on the west side of the settlements.

In the Revolution this plan was adopted by establishing a line of forts on the west side of the Alleghenies. One of the most important of these was Fort Dinwiddie on Jackson river about a mile above the bridge at Fassifern. This has been called by at least four names, Dinwiddie, Warwick's fort, Boyd's fort, and Byrd's fort, but it is best known as Fort Dinwiddie. Traces of a tunnel the river can be looked down at today. I have often looked down at the site of the fort from the cleared place on the east side of Back Creek mountain but I have not gone to the place in the great bottom where it was built. This fort during the French and Indian war was the nearest refuge for the settlers on Knapps Creek and Greenbrier River, and it was therefore the fort that covered this community. It main-tained from 1754 to 1759, a garrison that ran from sixty to one hundred men.

A line of forts in this part of the country are as follows: Trout Rock fort, four miles south of Franklin on South Branch. Fort Upper Tract, west of South Branch. Fort Dinwiddie on Jackson River turnpike, Brackenridge Fort, fourteen miles

above Fort Dinwiddie on Jackson River. When Stephen Sewall was killed by the Indians near Mill Point, it was placed in the bounds of Fort Dinwiddie. It should be noted that while Fort Dinwiddie was one of the chain of forts of the French and Indian war that it was established before that time and it was used as a starting point for the building of the new forts both north and south. And it should be further noticed that there is documentary evidence that Gen. Andrew Lewis, in 1755, had 150 men in stockades at Marlin's Bottom and Mill Point for the summer.

George Washington visited and inspected Fort Dinwiddie on September 24, 1755. This was a little over two months after the battle of Braddock's Defeat. He found Captain Peter Hog in charge, and Major Andrew Lewis not there, indicating that the main command was still at Greenbrier River. Captain Peter Hog wrote a letter to Washington dated September 23, 1755, saying that the fort was not provided with provisions and that they could not kill their meat for winter on account of no salt having been received from Fredericksburg.

In the fall of 1756, Washington, Colonel Buchanan, and a party of soldiers again visited Fort Dinwiddie on an inspecting tour. The nervous and brittle Dinwiddie was raising Ned about the mountain people allowing themselves to be killed by the Indians. Dinwiddie's banditti. He writes to the Augusta troops to get some good dogs and tree them so that the rangers could come up with them and shoot them.

This is as far as I can get Washington on the Huntersville road now but I think I can get him closer by the time Dr. Cook can come up and make a survey of the region.

Fort Gay, W. Va. Feb. 2, 1928. Mr. Andrew Price, State Historian, Marlinton, W. Va.

Dear Sir: Please inform me of this question, if so it would be very much appreciated. Which river did Geo. Washington throw a stone across, the Potomac or the Rappahannock? Very respectfully yours, Clyde Artburp

In answer to your letter about George Washington throwing a stone across a river and whether it was the Potomac or the Rappahannock, I will say that it was the Potomac. When he was a boy he lived in Westmoreland county which is bordered on one side by the Rappahannock river and on the other by the Potomac, but the Potomac is about ten miles broad at that place so it was not possible to throw a stone across the river there. But when Washington was sixteen years old he was surveying land on the upper waters of the Potomac and it is probably there that he made some wonderful throw that caused it to be remembered. Washington excelled in all out door sports. The cherry tree no doubt stood on the Rappahannock River or near it and it is possible that Washington might have thrown stones across the Rappahannock but hardly at that place. Some people do not believe the story that Washington threw the stone or cut down the cherry tree but such persons do not believe in Santa Claus. I see no reason why they should not be true.

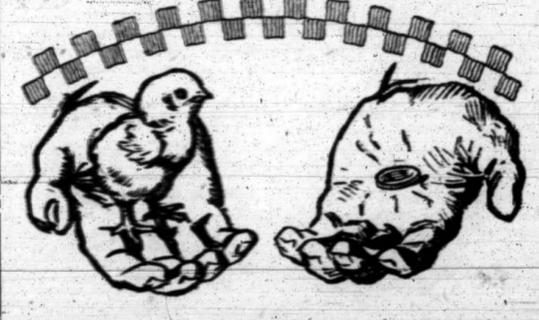
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